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influence is revealed in the marble top, the Oriental in the elaborate carving. This beautiful piece was presented to the Museum by R. D. Collet and T. J. W. Donath.



RARE CERAMIC PLAQUES

The Museum has recently come into possession of a most interesting piece of pottery, which has been somewhat of a puzzle to experts. It is a plaque, sixteen inches in diameter, with a deep centre and modeled designs in relief decorating the marly, or ledge. The central portion, or cavetto, is in mottled brown and yellow glaze, while the relief border is glazed in green. The central portion shows English influence, as it strongly resembles the tortoise-



PORTUGUESE PLAQUE
Tortoise-Shell Centre, Green Glazed Marly

shell ware of Thomas Whieldon, of the latter part of the eighteenth century. The relief design around the border reveals Persian or Rhodian influence, while the peculiar form and glazing of the back is distinctly Korean. The glaze is what is known as lead glaze and is minutely crackled over the entire surface. A study of this plaque convinces us that it is of Portuguese origin and dates back probably to about the middle of the nineteenth century. The Portuguese potters imitated the wares of various countries and combined the characteristics of certain Oriental and Occidental wares. As late as 1876, ware of this particular character was being produced in Portugal, as the Portuguese exhibit at the Centennial Exhibition included some vases showing similar modeling and combination of colors. This plaque is interesting both from an artistic and an historical standpoint. It has been placed in the case in the East Gallery devoted to lead glazed pottery.

Of a somewhat similar character, but of an entirely different period and provenience, are two fifteen-inch plaques recently procured for the Museum collection from England. They are tortoise-shell, or Whieldon ware, of about 1760. They are particularly remarkable on account of their unusual size, one of circular form with relief decoration, measuring fifteen inches in diameter, while the other, which is octagonal, is eleven and a half inches from side to side. The mottling of the glaze is very similar to that of the plaque previously described, while the body of the ware and the glaze are almost identical in composition.

One of the most interesting examples of sgraffito ware recently obtained is a plaque, eighteen inches in diameter, of Dutch origin. It bears a central design of a woman standing beside a man plowing, and is dated 1718. Above and below are inscriptions in Dutch, and the name of Derck Rahmeckers, probably the maker. This piece bears a striking resemblance to an enormous plaque measuring twenty-five inches, in the Rijks Museum at Amsterdam, which was made by Gerrit Eevers at Schaphuysen, Holland, in the eighteenth century.



NOTES

BASEMENT—Work has been resumed in the fitting up of the basement beneath the front entrance, where the Pompeian Views are to be reinstalled.

NEW PUBLICATION—The Art Handbook on "The Maiolica of Mexico," prepared by the Director of the Museum, is now in press and will be ready for distribution in November. This is the first work on the subject. It will be profusely illustrated with halftone engravings and several colored plates. Copies will be furnished to members of the corporation, on application, free of charge. To others the price will be \$2.00 a copy, or \$2.10, including carriage. Applications for copies may be sent to the Librarian, Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.